REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6 remain in the application. New claims 12 has been added to the application.

First, the specification has been amended to include a specific reference to the related provisional application in order to comply with and obtain the benefit of the earlier filing date under35USC119(e).

Second, claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Byma et al. (US 6,322,658). Byma teaches a headliner comprising a laminate including an inner layer sandwiched between two outer or reinforcing layers. The inner layer is bonded to the outer layers by heating and compressing the layer to form the headliner.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to distinguish the invention from Byma by setting forth that the the fibers of at least one of the bi-component layers are needled with the fibers of the core layer to intertangle the respective fibers and attach the bi-component layer to the core layer . In other words, the fibers of the bi-component layer are physically and mechanically intertangled with the fibers of the core layer to attach the respective layer without the need for heat, adhesive or compressive molding. Byma clearly does not teach such intertangle fibers between the multiple layers.

Additionally, claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Byma et al. (US 6,322,658) in view of Juriga (US 5,565,259). Juriga teaches that laminate layers can be held together using an adhesive web. Applicant has further amended claim 3 to set forth that the fibers of each of the upper and lower bi-component layers are needled with the fibers of the core layer to intertangle the respective fibers and attach the bi-component layers to the core

layer. Neither Byma nor Juriga teach the intertangling of the fibers between the core layer and each of the bi-component layer for attaching the layers without the use of adhesive.

Further, claim 4 also adds that a pair of core layers may be interconnected by a web adhesive between said upper and lower bi-component layers. None of the cited prior art references disclose, teach or suggest multiple core layers interconnected by a web adhesive between upper and lower bi-component layers wherein the fibers of the bi-component layers and needled and intertangled with the fibers of the respective core layers.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for more favorable consideration and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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